



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2000: DAVIS SIGNS DOMESTIC PARTNER BILL. WILL THIS IMPACT CA'S PRIMARY ELECTION?

Editor's note: There's little doubt that State Sen. Pete Knight's initiative to reinforce Calif.'s existing law banning *same sex marriages* will be one of the hottest issues in the 2000 primary election. There's already a good sized opposition campaign underway. But has this controversial measure been *helped* by the passage and signing into law of AB 26? There are some who say YES. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...For those who haven't been following, AB 26 is a domestic partnership bill authored by Assemblywoman Carole Migden(D-S.F.). This bill will set up a domestic partnership registry with the CA Sec. of State and will offer limited benefits usually associated with married couples. Domestic partnership legislation has been a key political objective of the gay and lesbian community for many years, but until Davis became governor, it wasn't in the cards...

...Now that AB 26 will become law (assuming hardliners don't push for a referendum), there are sources who say Davis has now given *political cover* to Demos and others to vote for Knight's initiative. Davis has said in the past that he is opposed to gay marriage, but supports domestic partnership. Our sources suspect there are lots of people who feel the same way. And our sources say there are several legislative Demos who may soon announce their support of Pete Knight's initiative...

...The NO on Knight Campaign is saying that Knight's initiative "Threatens the New Domestic Partnership Law." **Calpeek** contacted the Knight initiative campaign and they say this charge is "nonsense and not accurate." "The campaign has not opposed this legislation," said Chuck Cavalier, lead consultant for the YES side. Another YES on Knight campaign source

said, "The governor's actions (in signing AB 26) demonstrates that you can support the initiative and what it stands for and also be supportive of a gay rights legislative program – domestic partnership."...

...FYI: Although Davis hasn't taken a stand on this measure, Demo presidential candidates Al Gore and Bill Bradley have both announced their opposition, as has U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer. However, back on Sept. 10, 1996, Bradley spoke on the U.S. Senate floor in favor of a Federal version of Knight's initiative; and President Bill Clinton signed the *Defense of Marriage Act*(DOMA) into law. Stay tuned...

L.A. CONFIDENTIAL REVISITED: L.A. POLICE UNDER FIRE. CALPEEK CHECKS THE POLITICAL FALLOUT.

Editor's note: Unlike big East Coast cities, the City of L.A. has always had a police department that was *lean & mean*. If you saw or read *L.A. Confidential*, you know what we're talking about. Now fiction has turned to reality with this new scandal involving anti-gang officers from the LAPD's Rampart Division. Here's our update & analysis...

...This still unfolding story of unjustified police shootings, giving false testimony, planting guns and the stealing of drugs dates back to at least 1996 – perhaps further. Although the LAPD's beating of Rodney King captured on videotape in '92 got more coverage, this scandal has been the lead story ever since it broke many weeks ago. The probe itself dates back 17 months...

...L.A.'s political establishment is truly shocked. In the past, going back to the Watts Riots in '65 and King in '92, LAPD scandals have usually centered on *excessive force* by officers. But this 1996 incident, and probably others as well, involves not only excessive force, but real corruption – the stealing of drugs out of the police storage room where evidence was kept. Our sources

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say this is what you'd expect back East, but not L.A. The last time there was something even remotely like this was in the early 1980s, when a burglary ring was dis-covered in the LAPD's Hollywood Division...

...It may be too early to pick out *Winners & Losers*, but for what its worth, some sources give LAPD Chief Bernard Parks high marks in *crisis management*. L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan is still shell shocked, as are most L.A. City Councilmembers. Can't tell yet if this scandal hurts the mayoral prospects of L.A. City Atty. Jim Hahn, but L.A. DA Gil Garcetti may have some problems...

...On Oct. 6th, Deputy DA Steve Cooley announced he would challenge Garcetti in March. Cooley heads the DA branches in San Fernando and the Antelope Valley. In his announcement, Cooley said, "The L.A. police scandal underscores the failure of DA Gil Garcetti to grasp serious prosecutorial oversight issues." Cooley was talking about the decision years ago to eliminate the DA roll out units who used to cover all police shooting incidents. Garcetti just reinstituted the program – too late, according to Cooley. Garcetti said he cut the program because the County didn't provide proper funding, but that statement has been rebutted by L.A. Co. Sup. Zev Yaroslavsky. Would a DA's roll out team have made a difference back in '96 when these cop shooting incidents occurred? Can't say, but it might have. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UNZ GETS INTO U.S. SENATE RACE.

Editor's note: As Calpeek noted last week, GOP political maverick Ron Unz of Palo Alto was indeed looking at the U.S. Senate race. He formally declared his candidacy on Oct. 5th in Sacramento. Here's our brief update & analysis...

...Unz, who just celebrated his 38th birthday Sept. 20, is the 3rd GOP candidate to declare. State Senator Ray Haynes of Riverside declared at the CRP convention Aug. 25, while San Diego Co. Sup. Bill Horn declared back in March. Sources say it is probable U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell of San Jose also will jump into this race. Horn and Unz are traditional conservatives; Haynes is a hardliner; Campbell is a moderate. James Peter Gough, a San Diego business executive, also is exploring. The GOP primary winner would face a very strong incumbent in Demo U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein...

...Unz first broke onto the political scene in 1994 when he self funded to the tune of \$1 million in a primary against former GOP Gov. Pete Wilson. Unz shocked many insiders (and Wilson) by getting 34%. Back then the Silicon Valley *deep pocketed* businessman was the *darling* of the conservatives because they really hated Wilson. But when Unz came out against Prop. 187, GOPers began to have their doubts about him. His successful Prop. 227 (to end bilingual education in CA public schools) in 1998 gave Unz more recognition, but also deepened the mystery of where Unz was coming from – politically speaking. He's a *political eclectic*...

...Along with Demo Tony Miller, Unz is the sponsor of a campaign reform measure (Voters Rights 2000) which hope to qualify for the Mar. 7, 2000 primary ballot. It is expected that campaign reform, as well as education, will be two of Unz's key issues...

...Unz told Calpeek last week that he's anti-abortion; doesn't think gun control works; and favors the Knight Initiative to block gay marriages in Calif. These conservative views seemed to shock some who thought they knew him better. Overall, Unz has about 40% name ID statewide – better than Horn or Haynes, but a little lower than Campbell. He says he'll budget \$6 million for the U.S. Senate campaign...

...FYI: No sooner had Unz announced, when Horn went on the attack. Horn campaign consultant Scott Taylor said Unz was "Like the Uncle Fester of the GOP – appearing once every 2 years." As for riding or using Voters Rights 2000 initiative, Taylor says that initiative will *undermine* Unz with conservative voters, who don't like the *public funding portion* of the Unz initiative. "And remember: the primary is still basically a place where Republicans cast ballots," Taylor told Calpeek. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '99: S.F. MAYOR'S RACE BEGINNING TO GET VERY NASTY AND THE NEWS MEDIA LOVES IT.

Editor's note: Here's an update on the Nov. 2nd San Francisco mayor's election, with new polling data and other info...

...With both incumbent Mayor Willie Brown and former political consultant Clint Reilly now slugging it out on tv, Reilly decided on Sept. 29th to pre-empt any *negative ads* the Brown campaign might run by holding

a news conference to discuss his past problems with alcohol. He's even got a tv spot about this subject. So give Reilly an A for candor...

...Enter Brown consultant Jack Davis, who used to work for Clint and knows where all the skeletons are buried. A tv crew shows up and wants to know what Davis thinks about Reilly's *candor news conference*. Davis gives Reilly an F because he says Reilly didn't mention a 20-year-old domestic abuse situation involving Reilly's ex girlfriend. Davis really knows how to push Clint's button. Although the story, claims and counter-claims have died down, it ran through the news cycle for 4 days. There was no doubt this story would surface, it was only a question of time. Lots of insiders know about the incident and so does the news media, but there's an understanding not to mention Reilly's ex girlfriend by name...

...*New polling data*: by the S.F. Examiner and KTVU (621 voters/Sept. 21-23 by pollster Del Ali) which shows incumbent Mayor Willie Brown at **37%**, former political consultant Clint Reilly at **16%**, and former Mayor Frank Jordan at **14%**. The last poll SFEx & KTVU showed Brown 34, Jordan 18 and Reilly at 9...

CAMPAIGN 1999: UPDATE ON ATM FEE BATTLE IN S.F.

Editor's note: All of the major candidates for mayor in the Nov. 2nd election have endorsed YES on F, the local initiative facing San Francisco voters. If F is approved, S.F. will be the 2nd city in the country to ban banks from charging double ATM fees. On Oct. 5th, the Santa Monica City Council approved a law doing the same thing. But there's a question of whether or not cities have jurisdiction. Here's our update...

...The NO on F campaign, aka *The Coalition for ATM Choice*, is demanding that the S.F. Director of Elections correct errors and misstatements published in the voters handbook by the YES side. The handbooks are distributed to all voters...

...According to the NO side, in an argument signed by S.F. Co. Supes Tom Ammiano and Sue Bierman, they state that "Connecticut and Iowa already prohibited ATM surcharges because of their anti-competitive effect..." Robert Barnes, who is the lead consultant on the NO side, said that statement is untrue. "Recent federal court rulings in both cases said that States

cannot interfere with the operation of national banks' ATMs." In fact, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is the sole regulatory authority for national bank ATMs. FYI: Barnes also notes the Connecticut has no law banning ATM surcharges...

...Will S.F. Director of Elections Naomi Nishioka make the correction? Don't know yet, but NO on F could go to court and ask that the Director issue a supplement to the handbook with the correction...

...FYI: Originally, the NO on F campaign was going to spend big bucks on a huge tv campaign. But that's out, as is Goddard Claussen. Instead, Barnes will run a more grassroots/mail oriented campaign. Stay tuned...

NEW POLLING DATA: SAN DIEGO MAYOR'S RACE.

Editor's note: San Diego businessman Peter Q. Davis and his campaign have just released some new polling numbers. Here's a brief update...

...The Sept. 22/23 sample among 411 registered and likely voters was taken by Davis' consultants – Dick Dresner & Bob Wickers. The primary to replace outgoing Mayor Susan Golding will be held Mar. 7th. This survey has a margin of error of 4%. If the election were held now, here's how it would look:

Undecided	43%
Sup. Ron Roberts	16%
Councilmember Barbara Warden	11%
Councilmember George Stevens	9%
Councilmember Byron Wear	7%
Peter Q. Davis	7%
Judge Dick Murphy	5%
Jim Bell	2%

...The numbers remain pretty much unchanged from an earlier D/W poll done in July: Roberts 17%, Warden 13%, Stevens 8%, Wear 5%, Davis & Murphy at 7% each. In terms of name ID, Roberts has 69%, Stevens 65%, Wear 62%, Warden 57%, Davis 39%, Murphy 38% and Bell at 30%. In other words, there's no clear cut frontrunner – according to this survey...

...FYI: new entries into the mayor's race: Janice Jordan (P&F party) and J.R. Graham... Sources say consultant Larry Remer and his Primacy Group are now working for Roberts (along with lead consultant Tom Shepard). Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY ON SALE.

Calpeek's new Millennium edition of the Directory of Campaign Consultants is now on sale to subscribers for \$25. Non-subscribers have to become subscribers before they can buy the Directory. Checks only; no invoicing; and no credit cards...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **NFL Gives L.A. Digital Salute** – The long wait is over. On Oct. 6th the NFL awarded the 32nd expansion franchise to Houston. What it all boiled down to was \$700 million from Houston's Bob McNair. And neither Eli Broad nor Michael Ovitz (and his financial angel Ron Burkle) wanted to get into a big bidding war just to satisfy greedy NFL owners. Question: will there be a move by an L.A. talk radio host(s) to punish the NFL by urging a boycott of Sunday tv games???

■ **S.F. DA's Race** - a S.F. Chronicle survey of 600 voters, Sept. 15 & 18 by Baldassare Associates, shows incumbent DA Terence Hallinan in *deep trouble*. Only 21% are likely to support Hallinan's reelection on Nov. 2nd. The biggest hunk of voters, 59%, are undecided. Former Dep. DA Bill Fazio is at 14%, while Dep. Public Defender Matt Gonzalez and former Dep. DAs Steven Castleman and Mike Schaefer are below 5%...

■ **Calif.'s Top Issues** – A new poll by Public Opinion Strategies (800 registered voters/April 6-Sept. 22) shows that on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being highest, most Calif. voters say **education** remains the #1 issue statewide. Here's how the issues ranked: #1 – learn English before graduating; #2 – remove drugs from schools; #3 – tough gang laws; #4 – safe schools; #5 – accountability of elected officials; #6 – health care. Gun control was #8 with 43%, while abortion ranked next to last with 20%...

■ **L.A. 2001 Update** – L.A. Councilwoman Laura Chick has made it official: she has announced her candidacy for City Controller in 2001...

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CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: veteran broadcast journalist Pat Davis of Sacramento died of a heart attack Oct. 1 while bike riding. His reports were heard on KGO in S.F., KNX in L.A. and KFBK in Sacto. He was 58. R.I.P...

● Jorge Flores has given up campaign management to become VP of AVS Consulting, an L.A.-based P/A firm. ☎ (213)629-4287...

● Sheree Aronson has been hired by Fleishman-Hillard/L.A. as a Sr. VP of financial and investor relations...

● Lobbyist Susan McCabe has opened her own firm – McCabe & Company. Same address: 1100 11th Street, Ste. 305, Sacto 95814...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

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